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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God, by reflecting on our faith story in the past both as individuals and as a Nation, You help us in our discernment of present issues.

By coming to understand who we truly are in relationship to You, Almighty God, and how we are drawn together as a people, You enable us to accept the light and the darkness within ourselves, the strong and the weak, the godly and the sinful, the wounded and the healthy.

In taking possession of ourselves in the mirror of Your own word, we see Your mighty hand guiding our history.

And Your dealings with us in the past help Congress today to lead us on the path to freedom.

Our true freedom is the ability to truly become the people You have destined us to be, to determine the shape of things to come and find direction for our life now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOOLEY)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1442. An act to authorize the design and construction of a visitor center for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 589. An act to strengthen and improve the management of national security, encourage Government service in areas of critical national security, and to assist government agencies in addressing deficiencies in personnel possessing specialized skills important to national security and incorporating the goals and strategies for recruitment and retention for such skilled personnel into the strategic and performance management systems of Federal agencies.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 10 one-minute requests on each side.

REEXAMINING A STREAMLINED PROCESS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, our companies that develop drugs that treat life-threatening illnesses must go through a rigorous process to ensure the safety and effectiveness of their drugs. Only after these FDA requirements are met, can the drug be put on the market. Under rare circumstances, medications can be approved through an accelerated process known as Subpart H which was adopted to streamline the approval of desperately needed drugs intended to treat serious and life-threatening illnesses.

RU-486, an abortion drug, was approved under this streamlined process.

Several weeks ago, Holly Patterson, a California teenager, died from an infection caused by fragments of her baby's corpse left in her uterus after she took RU-486 at a Planned Parenthood facility.

Mr. Speaker, the Food and Drug Administration should not have authorized this dangerous drug. Legislation is being introduced today that takes RU-

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486 off the market and demands to review the process by which this drug was approved. I hope the House will soon consider it.

TRULY HONOR OUR VETERANS

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, Veterans Day, November 11, 150,000 veterans will have waited 6 months or longer for appointments for medical care; 14,000 veterans have been waiting 15 months or longer for expedited disability claims; 560,000 disabled veterans will be forced to pay the disabled veterans tax. It does not have to be this way. But we are confronted with the most anti-veteran, anti-veteran administration in Congress in history.

The President refused to spend \$275 million in emergency money. He cut off veterans' health care for 160,000 Category 8 veterans. Although there are 373 cosponsors to do away with the disability tax, the President has threatened to veto the bill if we do away with the veterans' disability tax, and Republican leaders refuse to bring up that bill here in the House.

It would be better to celebrate Veterans Day with actions that delivered on our promises to veterans than laudatory words; but I fear that we will just hear words and not see actions from this Congress and this administration.

INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES ARE A CAMPAIGN-FREE ZONE

(Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, not so long ago, Democratic leaders said before the cameras, actually yelled before the cameras, that this war should not be politicized.

This week we learned just how empty and how hypocritical those words were. Among other things, we learned of a Democratic staff memo from a Senate Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence describing a plan to use intelligence information about the war for political points during a Presidential campaign.

Mr. Speaker, we have men and women in uniform in harm's way. We have families back here who desperately miss them and fear for their safety and now we have this memo.

Not everything is a political game. Not everything should be campaign fodder. Of all our committees, our intelligence committees should be campaign-free zones. I believe the American people deserve better, and I know our troops deserve better.

ACKNOWLEDGING AMERICA'S PAIN

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I want to complement the President for traveling to southern California to comfort the families and the communities of the San Diego area.

While Americans in southern California suffer great losses and begin the struggle to rebuild, it is essential that our President which he did demonstrate the commitment of his administration and the entire Nation to helping them legal.

An article in the Chicago Tribune discusses today, families across the country are working to rebuild their lives after burying a son or daughter who died in combat. The President rightly goes to California to comfort a family that has lost a home. Why is he not coming to Illinois to comfort a family who has lost a son?

The President in San Diego lifted the spirits of an entire community as they reassembled their lives. That same compassion needs to be shared with the parents who are burying their children. They deserve to know that the growing criticism of the situation in Iraq will not keep the President from acknowledging their individual losses.

This is all the more important on today when the President signs the \$87 billion to help Iraq rebuild their nation. We cannot pass by the families who have lost and have personal pain. They are all part of America's family.

CELEBRATING AMERICAN VETERANS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, November 11, America will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Veterans Day, a day to honor our men and women who have fought to preserve freedom and liberty for generations to come.

Veterans Day was formerly known as Armistice Day in recognition of the end of World War I, until President Dwight D. Eisenhower changed the name of the holiday to include all veterans in 1954. This year, we will honor the 25 million living veterans who have fought and the more than 1 million men and women who have died to ensure freedom and bring about peace in conflicts, including World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, the Gulf War and today's war on terrorism. This will be an especially solemn occasion as our current military are engaged in a fight for democracy in Iraq, a critical battle in the war on terrorism that we will win, to protect the American people from terrorists.

Since America was attacked on September 11, America has been awakened to a greater understanding and appreciation for the freedoms we enjoy here in our great Nation. This Veterans Day is an opportunity to thank those who

are responsible for protecting our way of life and have joined in struggles around the world in defense of liberty. In conclusion, God bless our troops.

HONORING ARMY MASTER SERGEANT TONY PRYOR

(Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the valiant efforts of Army Master Sergeant Tony Pryor, who recently received the Silver Star, the Nation's third highest military decoration, for his heroism which saved the lives of his fellow Special Forces team members.

The son of a logger from Toledo, Oregon, Tony Pryor has often been described as a fierce competitor and the epitome of a warrior. He put these skills to work last year when he single-handedly neutralized four al Qaeda soldiers while raiding a compound in Afghanistan. In doing so, he undoubtedly saved the lives of his fellow team members involved in the mission.

In his 14 years of service with the Special Forces, Master Sergeant Pryor has been on missions in Haiti, Somalia, Kuwait, and Iraq among other places.

I want to thank Master Sergeant Pryor for his heroic efforts and congratulate him on his award. He makes all of us proud. I feel safe at night knowing that he and others like him are defending this great Nation.

TRANSPORTATION WASTE WATCHER

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, this morning I wanted to stand and call for increased efficiency in our Federal Government. Our obligation here in the House is to protect precious dollars taken from the taxpayer by streamlining and improving our Federal Government. Specifically, I believe there is need for increased efficiency in the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Savings in programs such as Federal Transit Administration programs will mean more money to invest for our country's transportation infrastructure.

This past March, I met with Transportation Inspector General Kenneth Mead to discuss business practices of the agency and how Congress can better facilitate saving money in relation to transportation spending. In July, the committee held a hearing and identified several ways to enhance efficiency.

One way to trim excess and expedite construction on transportation projects is by granting more authority to State Departments of Transportation to deliver transportation and deliver those corridors faster.